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at 8 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DINU (Romania)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 8.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993 (continued)

Revised estimates under section 28: Centre for Human Rights (continued) (A/C.5/47/71)

1. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco), reporting on the informal consultations held on the revised estimates relating to the Centre for Human Rights, said that a compromise text had been worked out.

2. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of the proposal as follows:

"The General Assembly takes note of the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/47/71) and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

"Endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General on the understanding that, with regard to his request for $760,000, the Secretary-General would implement within the overall level of the revised appropriation for 1992-1993, the other activities of the Centre for Human Rights, for which he has requested additional resources and would report to the General Assembly through the final budget performance report 1992-1993."

3. He took it that the Committee agreed to the proposal.

4. It was so decided.

United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) (A/C.5/47/79)

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/47/79) and the additional information furnished by the representative of the Secretary-General concerning, inter alia, changes in the number of civilian observers. The Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would keep the staffing of the mission under constant review according to the changing circumstances in the mission area.

6. The Committee was of the view that the proposed number of vehicles (35 to be purchased and another 35 to be rented for a five-month period, in addition to rental of a fixed-wing aircraft and/or helicopter) was high in relation to the number of staff. It believed that the vehicles should be purchased locally as soon as possible to reduce rental costs. The Committee had been informed that the host country had not made available premises free of cost and it trusted that the Secretary-General would pursue his efforts with the host Government to obtain premises at no cost to the Mission.

(Mr. Mselle)

7. Subject to the foregoing, the Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that an additional appropriation of $13,121,300 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for UNOMSA from mid-September 1992 to 31 December 1993, and an additional appropriation of $1,673,200 would also be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its spring session of 1993, a performance report on the mission, including actual expenditure from its inception, and revised requirements for 1993, taking into account the developments in the region.

8. Mr. FONTAINE (Cuba), while fully supporting the report of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General's proposal, suggested that the Fifth Committee should specify that any decision it took would be without prejudice to the future mode of financing UNOMSA.

9. Mr. SENGWE (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and would also go along with the proposal by the representative of Cuba.

10. Mr. RAE (India) fully endorsed the comments made by the representative of Cuba.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it approve an appropriation of $13,121,300 required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for UNOMSA from mid-September 1992 to 31 December 1993, on the understanding that those requirements would be treated outside the procedures related to the contingency fund and without prejudice to the future mode of financing. Furthermore, an additional appropriation of $1,673,200 would be required under section 36, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

12. In addition, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the Advisory Committee, at its spring session of 1993, a performance report on UNOMSA, including actual expenditures from its inception and revised requirements for 1993, taking into account the developments in the region.

13. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in 1992 (A/47/16 (Part I and Part II)/Add.1 and 2)

14. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statements submitted by the Secretary-General on programme budget implications arising from the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for

(Mr. Mselle)

Programme and Coordination (CPC). It had noted from paragraph 11 of the first statement (A/47/16 (Part I and Part II)/Add.1) that there would be no reimbursement of travel costs for the joint meetings of CPC and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 1993 since the appropriation for travel costs had been used up in 1992. The proposal to hold the joint meetings of CPC and ACC in the spring of 1993 had been made before the venue of the spring session of ACC had been decided; it had since been confirmed that ACC would be meeting in Rome. The Advisory Committee noted that it had been the Secretariat's understanding that if the meetings were held in Rome it would be at the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and no additional conference-servicing costs would arise. He drew attention to paragraph 2 of the second statement (A/47/16 (Part I and Part II/Add.2) in which it was pointed out that that understanding was incorrect, since FAO did not have a large conference-servicing facility. It was estimated that an amount of $135,000 would be required under section 1 of the budget for 1992-1993 for conference-servicing costs to be reimbursed to FAO. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretariat had been unable to verify the basis on which that estimate had been arrived at. The Advisory Committee was somewhat surprised that FAO was requesting reimbursement of costs for the joint meetings, since ACC would be meeting in Rome at the invitation of FAO, and it therefore recommended that the Secretariat should make every effort to persuade FAO not to seek reimbursement of the conference-servicing costs of the joint meetings.

15. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation would not be prepared to approve the proposal since the Committee was being informed at the last minute that the joint meetings would be held in Rome and at an additional cost of $135,000. Moreover, that figure did not include the travel of CPC members or of Secretariat staff required to service the meetings. He suggested that CPC should reconsider the venue.

16. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, informed the Committee that in the letter he had sent to the Secretary-General, on behalf of CPC, he had pointed out that members of CPC would prefer the next joint meetings to be held in New York.

17. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) recalled that, since the heads of agencies had not been in a position to meet in 1992, CPC had reluctantly agreed to defer the joint meetings until 1993. He expressed the hope that the United States representative would not insist on his reservation, adding that he himself intended to return to the issue of travel costs when the Committee discussed travel entitlements at its resumed session.

18. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) pointed out that when CPC had agreed to defer the joint meetings, it had had no idea that the next session of ACC would be held in Rome. While his delegation continued to support the joint meetings process, it believed that such meetings were of limited usefulness and saw no point in spending some $200,000 simply to meet in Rome.

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

It therefore could not approve an additional appropriation at that time and suggested that the Committee defer a decision on the venue until its resumed session.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following decision:

> "The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it take note of the information provided and observations made by the Chairmen of CPC and ACABQ on the matter and recommends to the Secretary-General that the next series of joint ACC/CPC meetings take place in New York".

20. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of installing an appropriate signalling system (A/47/32 and A/C.5/47/23)

21. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in paragraph 116 of its report (A/47/32), the Committee on Conferences decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should install portable devices to be used in enforcing limits on the length of statements by delegations, as described in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/287), in sufficient numbers and in the most cost-effective manner possible. In paragraph 117 of the report, the Committee on Conferences requested the Secretariat to take into account the number of meetings at each conference-servicing location with a view to determining the number of devices required, when preparing the relevant statement of programme budget implications.

22. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was the Advisory Committee's view that the General Assembly should first decide whether there should be time-limits on speeches and statements, and whether that decision would be consistently enforced; otherwise, the installation of a signalling system would be a waste of money. The Advisory Committee had been informed that there was such a device in the General Assembly Hall for enforcing time-limits on statements, but that it was hardly ever used.

23. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it endorse the Advisory Committee's comments with respect to the installation of an appropriate signalling system.

24. It was so decided.

Administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (A/C.5/47/44)

25. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretariat on the administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (A/C.5/47/44).

26. It was so decided.

Programme on Space Applications

Letter from the Chairman of the Special Political Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee regarding the budgetary allocations for the Programme on Space Applications (A/C.5/47/51)

27. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of document A/C.5/47/51 containing a letter from the Chairman of the Special Political Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee regarding the budgetary allocations for the Programme on Space Applications.

28. It was so decided.

29. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) recalled that the space applications programme had been considered a major achievement of UNISPACE 82; through the programme, developing countries were to be assisted in developing space literacy so that they would be able to benefit from the exploration of outer space and the technology deriving therefrom. Experience had shown, however, that despite the high-sounding words of commitment, the funds made available for the programme had been very much below the mark. He hoped that his comments would be taken into account by the Secretary-General when preparing the next programme budget.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91 concerning agenda item 89 (a) (A/C.5/47/82)

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the following decision:

> "The General Assembly decides that, in order to provide for the minimal transitional requirements for UNITAR until the General Assembly can consider this matter at its resumed forty-seventh session, the Secretary-General is authorized to commit funds, not to exceed $400,000 for the period 1 January through 28 February 1993, by advances from the Working Capital Fund, to cover all costs related to the provision of security and maintenance of the UNITAR premises, as well as the costs of

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maintaining the existing staff members of the UNITAR New York office for whom placement is to be sought elsewhere within the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/197 of 11 December 1987."

31. Mr. AL-ARIMI (Oman) requested clarification on what the amount of $400,000 would be used for. His delegation had been under the impression that the transfer of UNITAR to Geneva would produce savings.

32. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that the Committee was not required to take a decision on whether UNITAR should move to Geneva or on any aspect of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91 other than its programme budget implications. The authorization to commit funds would make it possible to maintain UNITAR in its existing form until a decision was taken by the General Assembly at its resumed session; the funds would be used for security and maintenance, and for staff costs.

33. Mr. ORR (Canada) said that the amount of $400,000 seemed excessively high for just two months. He noted that in paragraph 14 of document A/C.5/47/82, the annual cost for building maintenance and security was only $647,000, and transitional costs were $612,500 for six months.

34. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that if the Committee took no action on the programme budget implications, the General Assembly would be unable to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91 at the resumed forty-seventh session. The Secretariat was not requesting additional funds, but authorization to commit funds from the regular budget. Of the $400,000, approximately $100,000 was for security and maintenance and $300,000 for personnel, for January and February. Even if UNITAR was transferred to Geneva, those costs would be incurred in the transitional period.

35. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that the Committee did not appear to have received any advice on the matter from the Advisory Committee. It was not clear to his delegation why office space would need to be rented, or what building maintenance and security would be needed over the next two months. On the basis of an annual cost of $647,000 for building maintenance and security, and a six-month cost of transitional arrangements of $612,500, an amount of $312,000 should be adequate.

36. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that one staff member would be retiring during the two-month period in question so there would be common staff costs relating to repatriation. The Secretariat was requesting authorization to spend up to $400,000 but if the actual costs were lower, that would be reflected in the performance report.

37. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) asked whether the United Nations needed the office space in the UNITAR building.

38. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) suggested that since the Advisory Committee had had no time to consider the matter, the words "With the concurrence of ACABQ" should be inserted in the Committee's proposal.

39. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly on the future of UNITAR, funds had to be advanced from the regular budget to keep UNITAR operating. The Committee's decision, if adopted, would authorize spending for UNITAR in January and February; otherwise, UNITAR would have to be closed. The General Assembly did not need prior permission from the Advisory Committee to authorize the Secretariat to commit funds.

40. As long as there was staff in the UNITAR building, funds were needed for maintenance and security. Until the General Assembly decided otherwise, the building belonged to UNITAR; no decision had been taken on what would happen to the building if UNITAR moved to Geneva.

41. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the decision he had read out earlier, with the addition of the words "with the concurrence of ACABQ" after the words "not to exceed $400,000".

42. It was so decided.

43. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that he hoped the Secretariat would consider the possibility of demolishing the UNITAR building; that would cost less than repairs and maintenance.

Draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26

44. Draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26 was adopted.

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26 concerning agenda item 104 (A/C.5/47/84)

45. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered document A/C.5/47/84 concerning the programme budget implications of meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) during one week in May 1993 and three weeks in August and September 1993. The programme budget implications related to the payment to the members of CPC of travel expenses and subsistence allowance. The Advisory Committee concurred in the estimates contained in document A/C.5/47/84 and, accordingly, recommended that an additional appropriation of $86,400 should be included under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the light of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/47/84) and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform

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the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft decision A/C.5/47/L.26, an additional appropriation estimated at $86,400 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

47. It was so decided.

First programme budget performance report (A/C.5/47/47 and A/C.5/47/77)

48. Mr. ORR (Canada), referring to document A/C.5/47/47, drew attention to paragraph 16 (b), which showed an increase of $21.8 million for changes in the percentage rate of common staff costs. It was difficult to understand why common staff costs were increasing at such an alarming rate when there was no corresponding increase in salaries. His delegation also wondered why there had been such a delay in the submission of the first performance report to the Committee. Document A/C.5/47/47, which was dated 14 December 1992, provided data only up to the end of September 1992 for all duty stations except New York, and up to the end of October for New York, although the Committee had been informed that the Secretariat had delayed the issuance of the report in order that the data might be as up to date as possible. His delegation feared that a precedent was being established whereby substantial increases in net requirements would be submitted to the Fifth Committee only at the end of the session.

49. With regard to changes in the rates of inflation, the data provided in schedule 1 did not appear to account for the increase of $36.9 million mentioned in paragraph 8 of the document. Excluding staff assessment, the increase amounted only to $14.2 million, or 0.6 per cent of the total initial appropriation. The assumptions used in the preparation of the 1992-1993 budget appeared to have been fairly accurate, in that the rates experienced had been close to those projected. For two of the three major duty stations, namely, New York and Geneva, the assumed rates of inflation had been higher than the revised average rates for the budget period; thus, savings could have been expected. Nevertheless, in annex II (b), under the column headed "Adjustments to inflation", increases of $11.5 million and $9.8 million, respectively, were shown for New York and Geneva. His delegation requested the Secretariat to confirm that those amounts related to staff assessment, which had been offset by savings from lower-than-anticipated rates of inflation. His delegation further requested that in future programme budget performance reports, the inflation factor should be indicated separately from changes in staff assessment.

50. The inflation rates for the other duty stations had been fairly consistent with the assumed rates, with very few exceptions. In those cases, since the majority of the expenditures had been in United States dollars, there should have been no significant increase in costs.

51. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the previous speaker's question concerning the increase in common staff costs, said that the estimate had been based on the experience of the first nine months of the biennium. While the Secretariat was unable to provide the Committee with a full-fledged analysis, there were indications that the payments to staff members for education grants and home leave had been higher than had been anticipated at the time of the preparation of the 1992-1993 budget. Those two entitlements accounted for a large portion of the increase of $21.8 million.

52. With regard to the question concerning the quality of the data, the Secretariat had been able to provide actual data only up to the end of October 1992; although the report was dated 14 December 1992, the calculations on which it was based had been completed by 1 or 2 December. The Secretariat had waited to issue the report until the figures on the operational rate of exchange for December had been available so that a projection could be made for the rest of the biennium.

53. As to the question concerning the provision for inflation, as shown in the summary table of expenditures, the inflation rates indicated in schedule 1 were applicable to non-post objects of expenditure, which meant that salaries were not covered. The major part of the provision of $37 million was attributable to increases in base salaries resulting from a substantial increase in staff assessment. As indicated in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/47/47, the increase in staff assessment was due mainly to the consolidation of classes of post adjustment into base salaries. Two such operations had been factored into the report, in one case for the consolidation that had taken place on 1 March 1992, and in the second case for the projected consolidation effective 1 March 1993. Those increases had been explained in the section on methodology. He agreed with the Canadian representative that it might be confusing to list two items under the same category; that would be taken into account in future reports.

54. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the previous statement had answered some of his delegation's questions concerning staff assessment. At the same time, it was his understanding that the main purpose of staff assessment was to reimburse United States nationals employed by the United Nations who were subject to United States taxes. His Government again asked whether the amount which the United Nations would spend on tax reimbursements in 1993 was approximately the same as the amount of staff assessment to be collected from Member States which taxed their nationals who worked for the United Nations, and whether that was the same as the amount to be deposited in the Tax Equalization Fund.

55. With regard to the increase in common staff costs, the Board of Auditors, in its report on the 1991 accounts, had found that control over the payment of the benefits to which the Canadian representative had referred was rather slack, a factor which might have contributed to the increase.

56. Mr. NA CHAMPASSAK (Australia) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the savings of $1.4 million realized under section 1.

57. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that while his delegation, too, appreciated the savings made, it was concerned at the delay in the issuance of the report until the end of the session.

58. With regard to the relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to Amman, which, as indicated by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, had occasioned a substantial increase in common staff costs, his delegation would appreciate information on the allowances and benefits which had given rise to such costs and on whether there was any legislative basis for anticipating a similarly high level of costs in 1993.

59. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the rates of staff assessment must be set at a level high enough to meet the Organization's obligation to reimburse staff members who were subject to national taxation on their United Nations income. The rates of staff assessment had not fully corresponded to the rates of tax increases charged to the Tax Equalization Fund, which had resulted in an increasing balance in the Fund. The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) was responsible for reviewing the rates of staff assessment, and it was his understanding that ICSC would review those rates in 1993.

60. For 1993, the amount which was expected to be charged to the Tax Equalization Fund was approximately $44 million. The amount of staff assessment collected from the United States totalled $27.4 million for the period January to June 1992. By the end of 1992, there would be a surplus of several million dollars in the Fund.

61. Replying to the question raised by the United Kingdom representative, he said that the substantial increase in common staff costs for ESCWA for 1992 would be matched by a corresponding increase in 1993. In 1992, the increase had been fuelled mainly by the payment of subsistence to staff members following their relocation and, in some cases, compensation to staff members for lost or stolen property.

62. Mr. ORR (Canada) suggested that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to take steps to improve the timeliness and transparency of the budget performance report.

63. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) proposed that the Committee should urge ICSC to review the rates of staff assessment during the biennium 1992-1993.

64. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the first programme budget performance report (A/C.5/47/47) and approve the Secretary-General's revised requirements. The Assembly should also request

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the Secretary-General to take steps to improve the timeliness and transparency of the budget performance report, and should further request ICSC to review the rates of staff assessment during the biennium 1992-1993.

65. Mr. BIRAUD (France) asked whether the Committee was recommending that ICSC should simply review the rates of assessment, or should examine the whole question of staff assessment.

66. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that another draft resolution was in preparation which requested the Secretary-General to review the whole question of staff assessment; accordingly, the Committee's recommendation should refer simply to the rates.

67. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt his suggestion.

68. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 147: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Final appropriations for 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46/Add.1 and A/C.5/47/47)

69. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations with regard to the unliquidated obligations and that it decide to revert to the question of the final appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991 at its resumed forty-seventh session.

70. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 102: FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (continued) (A/C.5/47/L.23 and L.27)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.23 and draft decision A/C.5/47/L.27

71. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur, introducing the draft resolution and the draft decision on which consensus had been reached in informal consultations, said that the former was aimed at improving resource management and allocation in all United Nations organizations and programmes. He reviewed the provisions of the draft resolution, with particular emphasis on paragraphs 1, 4 to 6, 9 to 10, 13 to 14 and 18, and the provisions of the draft decision, and recommended their adoption without a vote.

72. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.23 was adopted.

73. Draft decision A/C.5/47/L.27 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 105: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/C.5/47/L.18)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.18

74. Mr. DUHALT (Mexico) reviewed the provisions of the draft resolution, which dealt with a very political item and with contentious issues such as the placement in the budget of subprogramme 4 of programme 4 of the medium-term plan. He believed, however, that the informal consultations had produced a text that could be adopted without a vote.

75. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.18 was adopted.

76. Mr. BIRAUD (France), speaking in explanation of position on the annex to the draft resolution just adopted, and referring to the revision by which subprogramme 4 of programme 4 would be implemented in the context of draft resolutions A/C.3/47/L.61 and L.69, observed that electoral assistance operations did not necessarily involve situations that required peace-keeping or that threatened human rights, and that consequently the "full coordination" mentioned in the new text must be taken seriously. It was not absolutely necessary for the subprogramme to be implemented by the office of the senior official designated as a focal point, which had not been originally intended in resolution 46/137 to develop into an extensive bureaucracy. His delegation therefore found it surprising that the Electoral Assistance Unit had been set up by the Secretary-General (A/47/668, para. 10) without a prior mandate.

77. France continued to believe that, as a rule, election verification operations should be funded from the regular budget and not from voluntary contributions. Fairness and transparency, and independence of any donor agenda, should be the mark of those essentially apolitical operations.

AGENDA ITEM 113: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM (continued) (A/47/7/Add.6; A/C.5/47/37; A/C.5/47/L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.7

78. Mr. DUHALT (Mexico), reporting on the informal consultations that had been held on the basis of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) recommendations, said that it had been decided to treat the question of pensions separately. Reviewing the provisions of the draft resolution and its two annexes, he observed that, despite differing views on aspects of annex II, expecially on the base/floor salary scale and its linkage with the mobility and hardship allowance scheme, agreement had been reached on the text and he recommended it for adoption without a vote.

79. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.7 was adopted.

80. Mr. BIRAUD (France) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which, with its general endorsement of the ICSC recommendations, particularly the proposed increase in the base/floor salary scale, represented a vote of

(Mr. Biraud, France)

confidence in the Commission. Under section II.A, paragraph 3, of the draft resolution, the Commission was also being relied upon for the application of the new methodology for determining the cost-of-living differential between New York and Washington, D.C., on the basis of the groundwork proposed in the ICSC report (A/47/30, para. 143).

81. It was France's understanding that the draft resolution, in the sole operative paragraph of section II.C, referred to the Noblemaire principle as it had first been set out by the United Nations in 1972 in document A/8728; and that, in inviting ICSC to study all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle with a view to ensuring the competitiveness of the United Nations common system, that paragraph gave it a very broad mandate, covering not only past interpretations and applications of the principle by the General Assembly over the years, but also other possible applications by institutions such as the World Bank and the European Communities, which in terms of their size and structure were suitable for comparison with the United Nations.

82. In carrying out that mandate in close cooperation with the various United Nations institutions, ICSC must carefully study and weigh all relevant facts, especially those bearing on difficulties in recruiting and retaining high-level Professional staff, and on the identification of the main competitors for specialized personnel in a given occupational group; on the current practice of public and private employers in providing compensation as an adjustment for relative cost-of-living differences outside the home country; and on the long-term purchasing-power trends in the main duty stations of the United Nations system. France endorsed the approach proposed by the Commission in paragraph 177 of its report (A/47/30) relating to special occupational rates and believed that the factors to which he had just referred should be taken into account in that connection.

AGENDA ITEM 109: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (continued) (A/C.5/47/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.10

83. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana), reporting on the informal consultations on the draft resolution, reviewed its provisions and recommended its adoption without a vote.

84. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.10 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 115: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (A/C.5/47/L.12)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (A/C.5/47/L.13)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/47/L.12 and L.13

85. Mr. RAMOS (Spain), reporting on the informal consultations, reviewed the two texts and drew particular attention to the specific financing provisions in paragraphs 3, 6, 7 and 9 to 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.12 and in paragraphs 2 to 5 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.13. He recommended their adoption without a vote.

86. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.12 was adopted.

87. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.13 was adopted.

88. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government's position on the peace-keeping forces in the Middle East was clear and that, had the two resolutions just adopted been put to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 116: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.4

89. Mr. RAMOS (Spain) introduced the draft resolution and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

90. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.4 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 118: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.14

91. Ms. SHITAKHA (Kenya) introduced the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

92. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.14 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 120: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.5

93. Ms. SHITAKHA (Kenya) introduced the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

94. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that, in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the words "should the Security Council review the mandate of the Mission in respect of the period beyond 8 April 1993;" should be replaced by the words "subject to the review by the Security Council of the mandate of the Mission in respect of the period beyond 8 April 1993;", which were used in the fourth and fifth lines of paragraph 8; that was the correct formulation.

95. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.5, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 123: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.15

96. Mr. RAMOS (Spain) introduced the draft resolution and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

97. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.15 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 137: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.16

98. Ms. SHITAKHA (Kenya) introduced the draft resolution and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

99. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.16 was adopted.

100. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that his delegation's position on the financing of the expansion of that particular operation into Bosnia and Herzegovina was well known.

101. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the European Community strongly supported United Nations peace-keeping operations and was pleased that all the appropriations and resolutions on which action had been taken had been adopted without a vote. The European Community hoped that all Member States would demonstrate their well-established commitment through full and prompt payment of the resulting assessments. The European Community's practice in that regard was well known.

(Mr. Kinchen, United Kingdom)

102. The European Community was concerned about the regularity with which appropriations for peace-keeping operations exceeded actual expenditure, and also about the practice of retaining unencumbered balances to compensate for underfinancing that was in no way their responsibility. That practice could not continue indefinitely. In future, the Committee should devote more time to the examination of the estimates for peace-keeping operations, especially in the light of the very substantial sums of money involved.

AGENDA ITEM 124: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.8

103. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada), introducing the draft resolution, said that the blank spaces in paragraph (f) (i) had been left for the numbers and dates of the General Assembly's resolutions on the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). He recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

104. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.8 was adopted.

105. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that the establishment of the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund was without prejudice to any activities approved by the General Assembly. Moreover, the addition of paragraph (k) had also facilitated his delegation's acceptance of the draft.

106. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation had always supported the efforts of the former and the current Secretary-General to secure the financial basis of the Organization in the field of maintenance of peace and security. His delegation was also aware of the long-standing position of the Nordic countries to establish a reserve fund to facilitate the start-up of peace-keeping operations.

107. No working capital fund or revolving fund could sustain its functions unless early and full reimbursement was ensured. In that respect, his delegation emphasized the paramount importance of the obligations of all Member States to finance the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, as well as the need for them to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Moreover, the establishment of the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund would in no way obviate the need for improving and accelerating procedures for preparing and approving peace-keeping budgets and the speedier issuance of assessment letters to Member States.

The meeting was suspended at 12.35 a.m. and resumed at 1.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

108. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that he had held informal consultations with the representatives of those delegations which had requested that a legal opinion should be sought on various matters in connection with agenda item 111, as well as with the representative of the Russian Federation. All those concerned had shown great flexibility and efforts had been made to avoid raising political issues which fell outside the Committee's sphere of competence. However, some of the delegations needed to seek instructions on the various possible solutions that had been envisaged and no final agreement had been reached. In addition, the question of the scale of assessments needed to be concluded before the matter of the legal opinion could be settled.

109. Mr. NOVRUZOV (Azerbaijan) said that, despite the difficult situation it faced as a result of the scale of assessments, his delegation had acted in a spirit of compromise during the consultations and had made all the concessions that had been requested of it. As a result, it had secured nothing of what it wanted. Moreover, the Committee had failed to deal with the request in good time and the fact that it had not been possible to secure a legal opinion at the present juncture did not mean that the request should simply be dropped. In the view of his delegation, the matter was certainly not closed and the delegations concerned wanted an answer to their request. In the meantime, his delegation reserved its right to full freedom of action.

AGENDA ITEM 112: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

110. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that informal consultations had so far failed to produce a consensus text. A number of problems were still outstanding, notably the question of desirable ranges. All the delegations concerned agreed that the resolution should be adopted by consensus and more time was therefore needed.

111. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should propose to the General Assembly that it should decide to defer consideration of agenda item 112 to its resumed forty-seventh session, on the understanding that the working paper prepared by the coordinator would serve as the basis for further negotiations on the question.

112. It was so decided.

113. Mr. DUHALT (Mexico) regretted that no consensus had been reached and that the question had been once again deferred, illustrating how the right of veto implicit in the search for consensus could paralyse the decision-making process. Perhaps it was time to look again at the benefits and drawbacks of that method of taking decisions.